

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: July 26, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on July 20, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: David A. Ullrich
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences.

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Response (Fire), ATOFINA Chemicals, Riverview, Michigan

On July 13, 2001, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) assistance was requested and the National Response Center was notified of a fire following the release of toxic methyl mercaptan from a railroad tank car at the ATOFINA Chemical facility in Riverview, Michigan. The fire caused the deaths of three workers, and concern about nearby tank cars (one methyl mercaptan and three chlorine). Riverview and other fire departments responded. Evacuation or shelter-in-place occurred in the communities of Riverview, Grosse Ile, Trenton, and Wyandotte. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Marine Safety Office (MSO) Detroit responded and USCG Atlantic Strike Team resources were mobilized. The USCG and Canadian Coast Guard closed Trenton Channel and the Detroit River to boat traffic. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Jaster responded with the Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (later, OSCs Dollhopf and Buckley, and Section Chief El-Zein responded). A support facility was set up at the Emergency Operations Center at Response Section One offices on Grosse Ile. U.S. EPA instituted an air monitoring program (in general, the results were non-detect or low). Response support was provided by the Emergency Response Branch, Environmental Response Team, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Michigan Department of Community Health,

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Wayne County Health Department, and many others.

On July 14, 2000, the fire was extinguished and most evacuated residents were allowed to return home. No damage to natural resources was reported. There was extensive media coverage of the incident. Investigations into the cause and nature of the incident continue.

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Removal Action Initiated, Memorial Drive Dump, Muncie, Indiana

On July 17, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Verneta Simon mobilized Emergency and Rapid Response Services and Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team contractors to Muncie, Indiana, to begin removal activities at the Memorial Drive Dump site, which is along the west bank of the White River just south of the Memorial Drive Bridge. There are a large number of battery casings dispersed on the surface and below grade. Past site assessments indicated lead levels as high as 37,000 parts per million (ppm) in surficial soils. The highest Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) soil value was 625 ppm lead. The focus of this removal is to mitigate erosion by installing sheet piling and Armorflex along the bank. This removal is estimated to take 60 on-site working days and cost about \$1.3 million. Post-removal site control will be handled by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the City of Muncie.

Also, on July 17, 2001, a public meeting was held at the Mansfield Park Lodge in Muncie. Organized by Community Involvement Coordinator Zenny Sadlon, the informational meeting was attended by 36 people. OSC Verneta Simon, summarized the site history and current state. Louis Feagans, Earth Tech engineer, described the remedy. LaNetta Alexander, Director of Environmental Epidemiology at the Indiana State Department of Health, gave basic information about services provided and available in connection with the site. Muncie Mayor Dan Canan expressed his pleasure at a job well done. Several officials from other agencies expressed their opinion that the meeting was well organized and very successful.

Contact: Verneta Simon (312-886-3501)

Administrative Complaint Filed, Illinois-American Water Company, Peoria, Illinois

On July 20, 2001, U.S. EPA filed an Administrative Complaint against Illinois-American Water Company, Peoria, Illinois. The Complaint alleges violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 103, and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Section 304. On July 12, 1998, at 11:20 am, the facility had a 350 pound release of chlorine. Chlorine is a hazardous substance under CERCLA and an Extremely Hazardous Substance under EPCRA with a reportable quantity of 10 pounds. Illinois-American Water Company called the National Response Center on August 4, 1998, at 12:40 pm, the State Emergency Response Center (SERC) on July 13, 1998, at 8:45 am, but never called the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The facility provided the SERC with a written follow-up report on August 6, 1998, but never provided the written follow-up report to the LEPC. Illinois-American Water Company is in compliance with Sections 311 and 312 of EPCRA. The proposed penalty in the complaint is \$168,488.16. Illinois-American Water Company will have 30 days to respond to the Complaint.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

Gas Probes and Piezometers Installed, Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill Superfund Site, Albion, Michigan

In June 2001, two additional fence line gas probes and two piezometer/monitoring wells were installed for the Albion-Sheridan Township Landfill Superfund site in Albion, Michigan. The gas probes were installed based on previous elevated gas levels recorded along the landfill fence line. A contingency plan, based on future gas monitoring results, is to be submitted for review and approval, as an addendum to the Site Operation and Maintenance Plan.

Remedial action requirements under the 1995 Record of Decision and the 1999 Remedial Action Consent Decree at the Albion-Sheridan site include: removal of hazardous and liquid waste drums from the site; construction of a solid waste landfill cover, including a flexible membrane liner and gas collection; installation of a groundwater monitoring system incorporating remediation for arsenic; and, institutional controls. The site is currently in operation and maintenance.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Compliance Inspections (Sector Initiative), Western, Ohio

On July 16-18, 2001, George Rancich and Robert Foertsch, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), conducted five Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Compliance Inspections in Ohio. The facilities inspected were among those which had not responded to a compliance assistance mailing made by U.S. EPA on behalf of the Ohio State Emergency Response Commission. These mailings were part of a joint six State/U.S. EPA Sector Initiative involving Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Codes 3471 (plating and polishing) and 3470 (metal coating and coloring).

The facilities inspected were: Anotex Industries, Inc., West Chester; Metal Coating Co., Lima; Krendl Rack Co., Inc., Venedocia; Nicks Plating Co., Piqua; and, Cincinnati Plating and Repair Co., Inc., Cincinnati. A member of the Ohio State Emergency Response Commission, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, participated in the inspections. The result of the inspections will be documented in reports to the appropriate OCEPP enforcement person for review and appropriate follow-up action, as needed.

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Web Site Initiated, Lockformer Removal Action, Lisle, Illinois

A web site designed by the Environmental Response Team is being utilized by U.S. EPA Region 5 to distribute information to the public regarding the Lockformer site in Lisle, Illinois. The address of the web site is www.epaosc.net/lockformer. The site will be used to list summaries of the site, pollution reports, photographs, fact sheets, and bulletins. This is the first time in U.S. EPA Region 5 that the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) web site is being used to disseminate information to the public. The site section of the web site allows a posting of the site with a site summary, pictures, Pollution Reports (POLREPS), bulletins, maps, fact sheet, and any pertinent documents. The site can be accessed and edited by U.S. EPA or their contractors and the general public can access a read only version.

Other removal sites can be listed on the www.epaosc.net web site, if needed. The site also contains useful information including: an OSC directory, chemical databases, regulations, links to other sites, and other useful information.

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TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Ohio River Regional Spills Conference, Louisville, Kentucky

On June 21, 2001, U.S. EPA Region 5 helped host a regional spills conference to discuss Ohio River response issues. The conference was co-hosted by U.S. EPA Regions 4 and 5, and the U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office (MSO) Louisville. Presentations were given by the two U.S. EPA Regions, MSO Louisville, U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Fund Center, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection. The conference was attended by Federal, State and local emergency response personnel from four States. The conference attendees heard different perspectives and participated in open discussions about response issues that affect all who live and work near the Ohio River.

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